

The Punta Gorda Herald

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FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1902

SAYING QUEER THINGS.

It is quite evident that the "Politician" of the DeSoto News does not understand open candor in a newspaper discussing political matters.

He seems to be surprised that THE HERALD is truthful and honest enough to say openly that it wants a board of county commissioners with discernment and fairness enough to recognize the fact that there is more than one Democratic newspaper in the county. This and other expressions he calls "saying queer things."

Candor and honesty may be queer to him, for he may be a member of the present board of county commissioners, but there is no reason for a man to lie about his motives for opposing a candidate for a public office. Both the candidate and the people have a right to know the real reason for the opposition.

"Politician" also thinks it "queer" that THE HERALD, notwithstanding the suggestion that Hon. Jno. L. Jones may have brought out Mr. Ed. F. Bostick for county commissioner, declares in favor of Mr. Bostick, as if consistency requires this paper to turn down a deserving man simply because a designing politician may have prompted him to run for office.

In any case of a meritorious, capable, honest man whose candidacy is attributable to Mr. Jones, THE HERALD is broad and manly enough to support him, if it wishes, regardless of the fact that such a course may seem queer and inconsistent to "Politician."

"Politician" charges THE HERALD with wishing to make the county printing and Hon. John L. Jones issues in this campaign. In making this charge, a little broadness and liberality as well correctness should have suggested the truth that THE HERALD desires the election of men who may not justly be suspected of being under the selfish influence of any man, as is now the case with the present board of county commissioners, who, whether justly or not, are believed to be so kindly disposed towards Mr. Jones that his newspaper is the only one in the county to which they will give any of the public business. And it is not strictly and wholly fair to intimate that this means that they should give it to THE HERALD, for there are other good newspapers in DeSoto.

Nor is "Politician" fair or correct in charging THE HERALD with animosity, when it is known and generally admitted that its editorial on Mr. Jones was characterized by the utmost good nature. In fact, it was so complimentary to him that "Politician," in trying to find something to defend or to attack, is utterly at a loss what to say and so spreads himself out in a column of platitudes amounting to nothing except a few distortions of THE HERALD's expressions and intentions.

For instance: when he said that THE HERALD "alleged that certain candidates, if elected, would be controlled by Mr. Jones," he merely said something he thought would read well and make a good text for a super-wise political observation, for he cannot prove that THE HERALD said it, although THE HERALD feels confident that Mr. Jones for any man not in accord with him on public questions and some private matters.

Would "Politician" have us believe that Mr. Jones is such an unselfish, patriotic and magnanimous gentleman that the county printing has absolutely nothing to do with his preferences for county commissioners and that he would actively support men whose attitude towards his personal interests he knows to be unfavorable?

It is believed that the county printing is not the only thing in which Mr. Jones is interested. There is an impression abroad that he is interested in the Arcadia bank, in which he may wish the county treasurer and collector to place their deposits and from which the commissioners are said to borrow money. He is also the owner of real estate whose assessment at full value would increase his taxes and he has an abstract business which has been threatened with legislative interference. He has also enjoyed for several years the use of a room in the courthouse, which it is claimed would have been rented for a higher price than his friends the county commissioners charge him.

These beliefs and impressions are correct—mind you, if they are correct. Mr. Jones doubtless has an interest in many of us in the county of county commissioners, assessor, collector and the legislature; and any man as he is said and supposed would consider his pri-

vate interests in supporting candidates for those offices.

THE HERALD, however, is fair enough to say that no candidate should be turned down on the sole ground that Mr. Jones is supporting him; otherwise, really good men might be sacrificed. It is their good fortune, or ill luck, whichever you may deem it, if Mr. Jones favors them. He may have no more influence than any other good man over Messrs. Johnson, Hendry, Bostick, Griffin and others whom he is accused of supporting. The voters should judge of that for themselves.

A CONFIDENTIAL SUGGESTION.

Newspaper men are expected to tell all they know and more besides. No surprise should therefore be caused by this editor making a quotation from a confidential letter received from an eminent Floridian, to whom THE HERALD man had written a private note that closed with the inquiry, "Can I do anything for you down here?"

The utter unselfishness of the answer ought to excuse the breach of confidence in publishing it, which is as follows:

"You ask if you can do anything for me. There is one way I think you can help me out and that is by saying some nice things about our old friend, Mr. A. C. Croom. You are aware that he is the only old Confederate soldier in the present cabinet. I know you will agree with me that it is just to keep at least one old Confederate in the cabinet, especially to look after the pension disbursements &c. In addition to this, Church Croom, I think, has made one of the best comptrollers of the State of Florida ever had. He has certainly done his duty regardless of consequences and saved the State thousands of dollars."

THE HERALD cannot say anything nicer or more to the point than the foregoing; and as it comes from a gentleman of high character who is in no way associated with Mr. Croom, it is an endorsement of the latter emanating from pure unselfishness and a sincere interest in the welfare of the State that should have as much weight with the voters as anything that may be said by any newspaper.

THE HERALD has already before advised that Mr. Croom be elected and it takes this occasion to re-iterate and emphasize that advice.

Solana now has a postoffice with a daily mail, and J. H. Ochiltree postmaster.

The location of the State Fair goes a-begging.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

Minutes of regular meeting of council, June 6th, 1902:

Present: J. H. Concannon, chm.; J. M. Samuel, R. L. Earnest, J. R. Elliott, Belton Bassett and John C. Lewis, members elect of council, appeared and were duly sworn in by mayor A. C. Freeman.

The following committees were appointed by the chairman to-wit:

Finance: Messrs Bassett, Elliott and Lewis.

Street: Elliott, Bassett, Lewis.

Cemetery: The mayor, marshal and clerk.

School: Samuel, Earnest, Bassett.

Water and fire: Seward, Bassett, Earnest.

R. L. Earnest was appointed vice-chairman of council.

Meeting adjourned till 9th June, 1902.

Minutes of regular adjourned meeting June 6th, 1902:

Present: R. L. Earnest, chm., John C. Lewis, J. R. Elliott, B. Bassett.

The reports for the month of May, 1902, of treasurer, tax collector, marshal and clerk were examined by finance committee and reported correct.

On motion the chairman was requested to appoint a committee to confer with Mr. Perry W. McAdow in relation to building a public hall, and the chairman appointed J. H. Concannon and B. Bassett as such committee.

Monthly report of Chas. Smith, tax collector:

Tax and license collected 210.75

Monthly report W. B. Hardee, town clerk:

Fines received of marshal 111.00

Dog license 5.00

Received for cemetery lot 20.00

Total 136.00

Report of marshal for May:

No. of cases 25

" convictions 25

Amt. fines assessed \$184.00

" collected 109.00

" uncollected 75.00

Fines col'd for Apr and May \$109.00

Dog taxes 11.00

Total 120.00

Paid W. B. Hardee, clerk 116.00

Treasurer's report May 31, 1902:

Balance in Cemetery fund 36.84

" Expense " 8.40

" Street " 9.56

" Police " 157.77

" General " 608.53

Total \$821.10

W. A. ROBERTS, Treasurer.

The town attorney was requested to frame an amendment to ordinance 33 in relation to the opening of stores on Sunday.

J. H. Farrington was granted permission to erect a tower on Cross Park, and the town attorney was instructed to draw up an ordinance in relation thereto.

The town treasurer was instructed to transfer \$200 from general fund to police fund borrowed from police fund of 1900 and 1901.

Meeting adjourned.

Attest: W. B. HARDEE, Town Clerk.

Subscribe for the HERALD.

A PRETTY CHURCH WEDDING.

All who were so fortunate as to witness it agree that the wedding, Wednesday, of Prof. Henry Damm of St. Petersburg and Miss Alice M. A. Purdue of this city was a very pretty affair and withal very impressive. The ceremony occurred at 1 p. m. in the Episcopal church and was performed by the Rt. Rev. Wm. Crane Gray, bishop of the diocese of Southern Florida.

The announcement made last week by the parents of the bride had the effect of filling the church with a throng of appreciative friends. The interior of the edifice was beautifully decorated with flowers and evergreens.

As the hour for the ceremony drew near, Mrs. Hector played the wedding march on the organ, which was followed by a beautiful nuptial hymn sung by a choir of boys and girls in robes. During the singing, the lovely bride dressed in spotless white and leaning on the arm of her father, entered from the front door and walked slowly down the central aisle to the altar. Miss Florence Purdue, her sister, walked in front as maid of honor and she was preceded by two pretty little girls strewing flowers in the pathway.

The party was met at the altar by the groom attended by his best man, Prof. G. Walter Chambers of St. Petersburg. Bishop Gray at once arose and began the solemn ceremony of the church. The entire formula was used and the bishop made it finely impressive. Both bride and groom gave the responses and pronounced the betrothal words in a clear, distinct voice, betraying no embarrassment. After a solemn blessing by the bishop, bride and groom retired together from the church, preceded as before by the flower girls and attendants and followed by the bride's parents. They repaired to the rectory and entered their names on the church records.

A large number of friends followed the happy pair into the rectory and extended their sincere felicitations. An elegant dinner was served to the guests and was greatly enjoyed by all.

There was a superb display of bridal presents embracing numerous articles, both useful and ornamental, and many of them were quite costly.

At 4 p. m., Mr. and Mrs. Damm left by the Plant System for the mountains of East Tennessee, where they will spend the summer. At the train a large party of friends gathered to wish them bon voyage and treated them to a copious shower of rice.

On their return next fall, the couple will make their home in St. Petersburg. Many friends there as well as here wish them a long life abounding in all the joy that heaven can bestow.

DEATH OF MRS. TOLBERT MORGAN.

Mrs. Tolbert S. Morgan, nee Miss Matilda Jane Lowther, died at 6 a. m. Sunday at the home of her son Mr. James M. Morgan, in this city. The cause of her death was a disorder of the heart, with which she was attacked about two months ago and which the best medical skill failed to relieve.

The funeral services were held on Monday morning in the Methodist church, of which the deceased was a devout member. They were conducted by pastor H. W. Joiner, who paid a deserved tribute to the memory of the dead. The services at the grave were conducted by Rev. C. H. Ferran of the Presbyterian church. A large concourse of sorrowing kindred and friends was present during these last sad rites.

Mrs. Morgan was of English descent. She was born in Charleston county, Ga., Oct. 27th, 1836, and was therefore in her 66th year when she died.

May 4th, 1858, at Traders Hill, Ga., she was married to Mr. Tolbert S. Morgan, with whom she lived happily until his death on June 6th last year. She and her husband came to Florida in January, 1892, going first to Nassau county, afterwards to Manatee and finally settling here in DeSoto, where they they built up a valuable property and their children grew up.

They had ten children in all, seven of whom are living. These are: Messrs. James M. and O. A. Morgan, of this city; Mrs. Willoughby Whilden, of Nocatee; Mesdames Lizzie Cushing, Eva Cook and Zell Sands and Miss Kate Morgan, of Punta Gorda.

For forty-five years, Mrs. Morgan was a consistent member of the Methodist church and she died with the Christian's assurance of a blessed resurrection. She was a devoted wife and mother, a generous neighbor, a self-sacrificing, lovable woman who won the esteem and friendship of all with whom she came in contact.

Her bereaved children have the sincere sympathy of a host of friends throughout this section. They have the consolation of knowing that their sainted mother has fought the good fight, kept the faith and gone to a blessed and endless reward.

HIS ACCOUNTS CORRECT.

A report having gained some circulation to the effect that County Treasurer F. E. Parker is short in his accounts, all five of the county commissioners have signed a statement "declaring the report to be wholly erroneous and without any authority or reason."

Nobody, however, believed the report.

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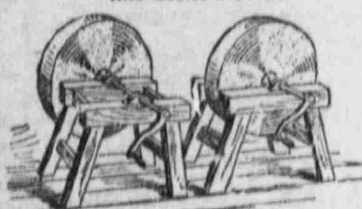
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